AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically installing, verifying and configuring functionalities, stored in installation, verification and/or configuration files, for system components ~~opponents arranged~~ connected in a distributed network, where the system comprises:

[[-]] a system planning tool for creating, checking and configuring the installation, verification and/or configuration files for ~~the~~ respective system components that are network nodes in the distributed network ~~is provided~~, wherein the system planning tool includes:

a user interface for transmitting selected system options to a planning logic unit and to a data management unit,

the planning logic unit being configured for using a data and rule manager integrated in the data management unit to produce installation, verification and/or configuration plans from the system options, the installation, verification and/or configuration plans for further processing in the data management unit, and

the data management unit being configured for using an integrated data generator to generate and configure software packages being dependent on each other, the software packages comprising installation, verification and/or configuration files from the

system options in the user interface, system information stored in the planning database, and the installation, verification and/or configuration plans produced by the planning logic unit, and for ascertaining installation steps for transmitting functionalities stored in the installation, verification and/or configuration files of the software packages to system components, [[-]] the system planning tool being configured for transmitting ~~transmits~~ the installation, verification and/or configuration files for installation in the system components[[,]]; and

[[-]] the ~~respective~~ system components for automatically ~~checks~~ checking and ~~configures~~ configuring specified ~~the required~~ installation, verification and/or configuration files in a prescribed order and manner, ~~and~~ such that [[-]] ~~following the configuration of~~ the system components, when configured, form the ~~systems~~ system~~is formed~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein following the configuration of the system components among one another an operational overall system is formed.

3. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the functionalities stored in installation, verification and/or configuration files are software packages.

4. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the overall system is a distributed network~~, particularly a distributed automation system~~.

5. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the software packages store system component data and setup data for the system components.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically installing and configuring functionalities, stored in installation, verification and/or configuration files, for system components arranged in a distributed network, where

[[-]] a system planning tool is used to create, check and configure the installation, verification and/or configuration files for the respective system components,

wherein the system planning tool comprises a user interface, a planning logic unit, a data management unit, and a planning database, in which

the user interface transmits selected system options to the planning logic unit and to the data management unit,

the planning logic unit uses a data and rule manager integrated in the data management unit to produce installation, verification and/or configuration plans from the system options, the installation, verification and/or configuration plans for further processing in the data management unit, and

the data management unit uses an integrated data generator to generate and configure software packages that are dependent on each other, the software packages comprising installation, verification and/or

configuration files from the system options in the user interface, system information stored in the planning database, and the installation, verification and/or configuration plans produced by the planning logic unit, and ascertains installation steps for transmitting functionalities stored in the installation, verification and/or configuration files of the software packages to system components;

[[-]] the installation, verification and/or configuration files ~~required~~ specified in the respective system components are automatically installed, checked and configured in the respective system components in a prescribed order and manner, and

[[-]] the system components are configured to form an overall system.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein following the configuration of the system components an operational overall system is formed.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the functionalities stored in installation, verification and/or configuration files are in the form of software packages.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the overall system is in the form of a distributed network~~, particularly in the form of a distributed automation system~~.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the software packages are used to store system component data and setup data for the system components.

11. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the functionalities stored in installation, verification and/or configuration files are software packages.

12. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the overall system is distributed network~~, particularly a distributed automation system~~.

13. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the software packages store system component data and setup data for the system components.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the functionalities stored in installation, verification and/or configuration files are in the form of software packages.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the overall system is in the form of a distributed network~~, particularly in the form of a distributed automation system~~.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the software packages are used to store system component data and setup data for the system components.